

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.937

Amateur Radio Newsline #937 29 Jul 1995

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Text Version information

BBS Networks: RIME - RO mail to Steve Coletti, ->35

Others - Steve Coletti (within the conference)

Online Services: America Online - tstader@aol.com (Terry Stader, Sysop)
or wd0ako@rrnet.com

Compuserv, Delphi, Genie - wd0ako@rrnet.com

Usenet: rec.radio.info - david@stat.com (David Dodell, Moderator)

File Requests: FidoNet users can Freq the latest edition of NEWSLINE
from Joe Brown, KB2NBN 1:2625/111

FTP to oak.oakland.edu - wy1z@neu.edu (Scott Erlich,
Boston ARC - libraian)

Internet E-Mail: Send mail to listserv@netcom.com with the
following commands in the body of the message
(the subject is ignored)

To subscribe: subscribe newslite-list
To unsubscribe: unsubscribe newslite-list
For more information: help

Manual mailing lists are also maintained by bigsteve@dorsai.org for individual subscribers and by wd0ako@rrnet.com for BBS's and radio clubs that redistribute Newslite.

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #937 - POSTED 07/29/95

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. Amateur Radio Newslite is a audio news service distributed via telephone.

This hardcopy version is produced by Dale Cary - WD0AK0 from scripts provided to him weekly by Newslite. It is then distributed to on-line services, bbs networks and internet user jointly by Dale Cary and Steve Coletti.

Editorial comments, news item and all other business should be directed to:

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The audio version of Newsline can be recorded from one of the currently operating lines listed below. This list is kept as accurate as possible. If any changes are not listed, please contact Dale Cary - WD0AKO at the above listed addresses.

Audio Version of Newsline

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Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line).....	(805) 296-2407
Seattle.....	(206) 368-3969
Seattle.....	(206) 281-8455
Tacoma.....	(206) 927-7373
Louisville.....	(502) 894-8559
Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 284-0752
Melbourne, FL.....	(407) 768-7447

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie.....	m345;1
GEnie.....	m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG).....	(214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36	
The Midwest Connection BBS.....	(701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference	
Delphi.....	
In the ham radio conference	
CompuServe/HamNet.....	HamNet Library 0
Internet.....	http://

For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line listed above. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

Articles may be reproduced if printed in their entirety and credit is given to AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE as being the source.

For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE,
please write to us with an SASE at

NEWSLINE
c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, CA
91066

Thank You
NEWSLINE

(*****)

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

(*****)

[937]

(* * * * * E M E R G E N C Y A D V I S O R Y * * * * *)

(* * * * *)

(* The following is an important closed circuit advisory. *)
(* Attention all bulletin stations. We have received word *)
(* from our support fund administrator that the money needed *)
(* to pay the our monthly bills is once again dangerously low. *)
(* According to N6TCQ, there is currently only \$500 in the *)
(* account, over a \$1000 in bills on file and at least that *)
(* same amount coming in every thirty days. *)

(* * * * *)

(* The bottom line is that this is an emergency situation. *)
(* If the funds to pay the July and projected August operating *)
(* expenses are not found quickly, we can tell you that *)
(* Newsline will disappear before the end of August. This, *)
(* because the phone company will turn off our service. *)
(* Without telephones there is no Newsline. *)

(* * * * *)

(* Yes, there are many sources of ham radio news, but for *)
(* the past seventeen years, nobody has been able to bring you *)
(* this news as quickly and as accurately as Newsline. The *)
(* ham magazines have a two to four month lead time. The *)
(* various ham radio newsletters are at least a week or two *)
(* behind what's happening. And while the ARRL has a very *)

(* fine news dissemination operation with it's W1AW Official *

(* Bulletin Station, it is primarily geared to disseminating *

(* ARRL information on the high frequency bands. *

(* *

(* It is Newsline and only Newsline that brings you up to *

(* the minute ham radio news direct to you over your favorite *

(* repeater. That means you can listen to it at home, in your *

(* car or even walking down the street carrying your hand held *

(* radio. *

(* *

(* As we have said many times, the decision whether *

(* Newsline stays or goes is 100% yours. If you want this *

(* service to continue, we will need your financial support. *

(* The address for the Newsline Support Fund: *

(* *

(* NEWSLINE SUPPORT FUND *

(* P.O.Box 660937 *

(* Arcadia, California *

(* 91066 *

(* *

(* Your assistance is needed IMMEDIATELY. We thank you *

(* all for your ongoing generosity and support. Again, and *

(* as always, we thank you. This ends the closed circuit with *

(* Newsline report number 937 for release on Friday, July 28 *

(* 1995 to follow. *

(* *

(* * * * *

The following is a QST

The A.R.R.L. Board meets in Connecticut, the F.C.C. tells the nations V.E.C.'s that they cannot copyright the question pool and a California ham triumphs over the giant Bank of America. His story and more on Newsline report number 937 coming your way right now.

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ARRL BOARD MEETING

The A.R.R.L. Board of Directors met in its second session of 1995 on July 21st and 22. A number of major actions were taken that will affect the way that the league approaches and enters the 21st century.

The biggest decision out of this meeting involves the terms of Division Directors and Vice Directors serve. Board members voted to institute three year terms for both positions in each division.

It's a decision Southeastern Division Director Frank Butler, W4RH voted against.

"The thinking was that if you don't have to have an election every three years, there is some savings in postage and the labor involved with an election. You can't argue with saving money but I felt and some members might feel the three year term is too long." Frank Butler, N4RH

The terms presently last for two years. The new three year terms will start using a transition schedule beginning in 1998.

In other league news, changes were also made to the operating procedures of the A.R.R.L. Awards Committee and Advisory Committees. Membership of the Awards Committee was reduced to six and an ad hoc committee has been formed to review the terms of reference and operating methods of all Advisory Committees.

And the A.R.R.L. is getting into the RFI immunity testing of electronic gear. The Board directed that the staff create a plan, including a budget, for the creation of standardized RFI immunity testing procedures for consumer electronics equipment.

In other news, the Board has declined to have the A.R.R.L. participate actively in the recently created corporation of volunteer examiner coordinators. On the other hand it has adopted a resolution thanking NASA for its continued support of the SAREX program.

And before adjourning, the Board of Directors expressed its gratitude to recently retired President George S. Wilson, W40YI, for his many years of dedicated service to the league and to the Amateur Radio Service. The Board of Directors bestowed on George the title of A.R.R.L. President Emeritus. An honor that he truly deserves.

Look for a complete wrap up on the boards decisions in the September issue of Q.S.T. magazine.

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V.E.C. FUNDING

The F.C.C. will not permit the nations Volunteer Examination Coordinators to copyright the Amateur Radio testing question pool. The government agency says that the preparation of the question pools is a part of the volunteer activity expected of V.E.C.'s.

For some time, the V.E.C.'s have been toying with the idea of copyrighting the question pool and then selling commercial publishers access to it. But speaking at the annual meeting of V.E.C.'s, the F.C.C.'s John B. Johnston, W3BE said that the entire purpose of the question pools is to inform examinees, examiners, educators, the amateur radio community and any other

interested party as to exactly what a person has to know in order to obtain a ham radio license.

Copyrighting the pools says Johnson, would be fundamentally contrary to the Commission's goal of giving the public the best possible service at minimal cost.

Johnston said that there is one and only one source of funding available to those who function as Volunteer Examination Coordinators. That source of revenue is the testing fees paid by examinees. The dollar amount of those fees is tightly government controlled so as to preclude a V.E.C. from showing any profit from its testing operations and no other solicitation of funds is authorized under the V.E.C. system.

Johnston noted that the National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators, an umbrella organization formed by the V.E.C.'s may collect dues from its members, but it is forbidden to do any other form of fund raising until and unless congress passes legislation to authorize other fund raising activities.

(*****

V.E.C.'s INCORPORATE

In a related story, the majority of the V.E.C.'s attending the conference voted to incorporate as a not for profit 501c3 organization. They will be known as the National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators. As already noted, the A.R.R.L. has decided to not be a part of this new V.E.C. corporation.

It was also agreed that the group will seek additional funding from outside sources. This, to help finance the attendance of the smaller VEC's at the annual meeting.

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RM-8626

Look for the F.C.C. to dismiss RM-8626 with little comment. Several sources close to the F.C.C. indicate to Newsline that the Commission is going to reject the petition filed by publisher Fred Maia, W5YI that asks severe limitations be set on high frequency bulletin station operations.

Only a tiny handful of hams filed in favor of Maia's idea. Well over five hundred commenters filing in opposition said that they favor increased selective enforcement action against those few bulletin stations the Amateur Radio community deems inappropriate to be on the air. This, as an alternative to Maia's suggested all out ban.

The only problem with selective enforcement is that it would be constitutionally non-valid if based on what ham radio operators want or do not want another ham to say. The only criteria

permitted the F.C.C. for issuing fines or pulling licenses is direct proven violation of the Part 97 rules.

(*****

INDECENCY WIN

The federal government won yet another legal victory in efforts to keep legally indecent programs away from children. In a 2 to 1 decision Tuesday July 18th, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia found that the Federal Communications Commission's policy of fining stations for violating indecency standards is fully constitutional.

The FCC has 84 cases pending involving allegedly indecent broadcasts. The decision comes less than one month after the same court broadened federal power to limit the hours of indecent programs. It means that a lot of broadcasters will soon be getting notices of very heavy fines for violating the F.C.C.'s rules on indecent language. More important for us, it sets the stage for similar punitive action to begin in other services, including Amateur Radio.

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GUNMAN KILLS THREE CALIFORNIA HAMS

An allegedly disgruntled Los Angeles city employee went on a shooting rampage at a downtown office building on Wednesday July 19th, killing four of his supervisors, three of them licensed radio amateurs. The suspect, identified by police as 42 year old Willie Woods, apparently believed he was about to be fired from his job as an installer of fire department radios.

The victims, all longtime employees of the city's Department of General Services, were identified as Anthony Gain, W6KFN; Neil Carpenter, KA6QIB; Marty Wakefield, N6BZ and non-ham James Walton.

One man died at the scene. Another was pronounced dead on arrival at the Los Angeles County U.S.C. Medical Center. Two others died at the hospital despite efforts to revive them.

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SEDSAT UPDATE

Turning to news from the Amateur Radio space program, we have several items. First, Dennis Wingo, KD4ETA, the project manager for the SEDSAT 1 experimental satellite reports from Huntsville that the satellite and its support program is doing fine right now. Wingo says that he has two graduate students and six undergraduate students working on the project full time. He also has two PHD level professors given to us for the summer to help in getting our experiments together.

KD4ETA adds that the group is expecting delivery of its Mode L transponder shortly and will put it on the air locally for use in test mode for high data rate communications.

SEDSAT One is currently on manifest for a July 17, 1997 launch. This from the space shuttle during the STS 85-flight.

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CALL SIGNS TO FLY ON PHASE-3D

Ron Broadbent, G3AAJ, Honorable Secretary of AMSAT-UK, has announced the formation of a program whereby individuals making a donation of 150 Pounds Sterling or more to the AMSAT-UK Phase 3D Fund will have their personal names and call signs placed in the spacecraft prior to its launch in 1996.

Similarly, commercial, governmental or trade organizations will have their names inscribed in the satellite for a donation of 2000 Pounds Sterling or more under the same program.

Ron's idea has been enthusiastically endorsed by key members of the Phase 3D International Project Team.

G3AAJ also reports he is now beginning to receive donations from participants wishing to take part in the program.

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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE NEEDS HELP

The AMSAT News Service needs your help! The service is looking for volunteers to contribute weekly OSCAR status reports. If you have a favorite OSCAR which you work on a regular basis and would like to contribute to this weekly bulletin, please send your observations to WD0HHU at his Compuserve address of 70524,2272 or on the internet at wd0hhu@amsat.org.

(*****

SINGLE DAY CONVENTION TREND GROWING

Look for more and more ham radio conventions become one day events. A recent issue of the Repeater Journal, a publication of the SouthEastern Repeater Association says that there appears to be a major shift toward downsizing large and mid-sized conventions and hamfests from two and three day events into single day affairs.

Repeater Journal says that attendance patterns in the South Eastern United States having changed over the past five years. The vast majority of those in attendance show up on opening day with fewer than 10% coming the second or third day. As a result, many show planners have decided to cut back their shows into single day high volume events.

It will be interesting to see if the trend toward the

consolidation of ham radio conventions to single day events becomes a national fad. Also, what will be the reaction of the Amateur Radio supply industry may of whom fly 1500 to 3000 miles to a show. Will they still be willing to attend a convention that only provides eight to ten hours for exhibiting and sales?

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HAM RADIO - GERMANY

While attendance at ham conventions in the United States may be dwindling, the same is not true overseas. The proof? Official figures just out say that twenty-one thousand hams attended this years Ham Radio Convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany. The three day event which is sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club was up a several percent over the number of hams that showed up in 1984.

(*****

SOCAL INET

Hams in the Los Angeles area can find Internet information on the Internet Roundtable Net. This is a net held every Tuesday, 8:30 pm on the 146.925 MHz Santiago Peak repeater. Topics discussed include the World Wide Web, e-mail, gateways, and Internet Phone. Internet Phone is a new way of communicating by voice over the Internet without the use of long distance phone lines.

(*****

RDG-WWW

If you have an Internet World Wide Web viewer, be sure to check the new Radio Design Group World Wide Web Service. The Radio Design Group Web Page is the creation of Westlink Radio Network founder and Newsline Northwest bureau chief Jim Hendershot, WA6VQP. Contact Jim at his callbook address to obtain the Universal Source Locator for his internet locator.

(*****

CHAVERIM MEET

The Western USA and Mexico chapter of the Chaverim will hold its annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada's Riviera Hotel from December 15th to the 18th. Chaverim is the Hebrew word for friend. The Chaverim organization was founded by the late Hal Crystal, K2BYB as a way of promoting closer ties between Jewish hams and their friends here in the United States to the Amateur Radio community in Israel. Those interested in attending the

Western U.S.A. and Mexico Chaverim meeting should contact K6AIZ via packet radio at WB6WFH or direct to his callbook address.

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DX 6M

In DX, 9H5EE reports another major 6 meter opening across the Atlantic ocean. The second one in his log for this year. John says that he worked WA10UB from FN43 was around 50.115 in early July. He also heard WA3TBG at about the same time. Six meter enthusiasts say its a bang up year for DXing that band, even for a 9H station with 25 watts into a 3 element beam.

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WA6HMC VS BANK OF AMERICA

A Canyon Country California ham, angered by an allegedly deceptive call left on his answering machine by a telemarketer for the Bank of America has won a substantial award after taking his case into court. Robert Arkow, WA6HMC, is a member of a group called Private Citizen, Incorporated. Private Citizen is a nationwide organization that opposes unsolicited telemarketing phone calls. Arkow filed his law suit in February of 1994 after entering into a loan in which he included a do not solicit rider in the contract.

"I received a telephone call indicating that a gentleman from the Palmdale Branch, named Jason, wanted to talk to me. It was my local branch at the time regarding my savings account. When I called back I got a voice mail. Then I called the branch and found that Jason wasn't there. Later on I tracked him down and found he was in another city over a 100 miles away and he was really telemarketing me for investment services." Robert Arkow, WA6HMC

The suit was adjudicated last month. Arkow's action claimed breach of contract and violation of F.C.C. rules. The lawsuit asked \$500 for breach of contract, \$500 for failure to provide a written do not call policy and \$1000 in punitive damages. This because the message left on his answering machine implied there were problems with his bank account causing him unnecessary worry.

In its defense, the bank maintained that this was a courtesy call to Arkow. The judge however found that the bank had actually violated two F.C.C. rules and awarded Arkow \$1000.

WA6HMC says he is happy with the way things worked out so far, but he is still waiting to hear from the F.C.C.:

"Well what disturbs me is that a spokesman for the bank made a

statement in a local paper saying that we are not going to change our policy and yet a complaint filed with the F.C.C. regarding this has seen any action.

I as a ham find it uniquely interesting that we can't get F.C.C. action against a major bank for violating F.C.C. rules and invading the privacy of thousands of its customers. We are always told they are too busy with other things. I work in the commercial two way radio business and we can't get them to respond to problems there. I'm a ham and we can't get them to respond to problems in the amateur bands and now we can't get them to respond when thousands of our phones being invaded with deceptive messages." WA6HMC

Sound familiar?

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, California
91066

Before we go, a word of congratulations to some very close friends of Newsline. To Charlie Gilliland, WA0KDC and his wife Judy on the marriage of their daughter Cathy, KB0FDU to Mr. Stephen Lentz on Saturday July 22nd. As regular listeners know, Cathy who is 18 is the co-host of the upcoming ham radio promotional video Always on the Air.

Please join with us in wishing the newlyweds many decades of joy and happiness together. Congratulatory cards can be sent to Cathy and Stephen at Cathy's Callbook address.

(* * * Newsline Copyright 1995 all rights are reserved. * * *

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From owner-newsline-list Mon Jul 31 05:39:46 1995

Return-Path: <owner-newsline-list>

Received: by mail5.netcom.com (8.6.12/Netcom)

id UAA08641; Sun, 30 Jul 1995 20:10:48 -0700

Received: from amber.ccs.neu.edu by mail5.netcom.com (8.6.12/Netcom)

id UAA08623; Sun, 30 Jul 1995 20:10:45 -0700

Received: from k2.ccs.neu.edu (scotte@k2.ccs.neu.edu [129.10.112.116])

by amber.ccs.neu.edu (8.6.12/8.6.4) with ESMTP id XAA12573
for <newsline-list@netcom.com>; Sun, 30 Jul 1995 23:12:30 -0400
From: Scott Ehrlich <scotte@ccs.neu.edu>
Received: (scotte@localhost)
by k2.ccs.neu.edu (8.6.12/8.6.4) id XAA03871
for newsline-list@netcom.com; Sun, 30 Jul 1995 23:12:29 -0400
Date: Sun, 30 Jul 1995 23:12:29 -0400
Message-Id: <199507310312.XAA03871@k2.ccs.neu.edu>
To: newsline-list@netcom.com
Subject: Amateur Radio Newsline #936
Sender: owner-newsline-list@netcom.com
Precedence: list
Status: RO

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.936
Amateur Radio Newsline #936 29 Jul 1995

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E-Mail - 3241437@mcimail.com or BILLWA6ITF@aol.com
Phone/Fax - +1 805 296-7180, fax senders wait for voice prompt.

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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #936 - POSTED 07/28/95

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Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 284-0752
Melbourne, FL.....	(407) 768-7447

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie (File Library)..... m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG)..... (214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36
The Midwest Connection BBS..... (701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference
Delphi.....In the ham radio conference
CompuServe/HamNet..... HamNet Library 0
Internet.....In the rec.radio.info newsgroup
Internet FTP: oak.oakland.edu.....
In archive: pub/hamradio/docs/newsline
Local BBS's.....In the Ham Radio conferences on
Fidonet, RIME, Intellec, I-Link and AR-Net

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at

NEWSLINE
c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, CA
91066

Thank You
NEWSLINE

(*****)

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

The portion of the 70 centimeter band affected is from 440 to 443 MHz. VK4BB says that this spectrum was primarily used for repeater interties and linking. We will have more international news later on.

(*****

FINES REDUCED

Here in the United States, four New Orleans area hams cited by the Federal Communications Commission for malicious interference on the 2 meter band have had the amounts of their monetary forfeitures adjusted downward. But only because an appeals court said that the commission has no other choice.

The four are identified as Joseph F. Richard III-N5JNX, Vernon Paroli-KA5OWW, Will T. Blanton-N5ROC and John B. Genovese-WB5LOC. There were originally cited for transmissions made in the spring of 1993. In September of that year, all four received Notices of Apparent Liability from the FCC's New Orleans office. Two months later, in November, after reviewing responses of the four hams, the F.C.C. issued Notices of Forfeiture in the amount of \$2,000 to each ham.

All four men appealed the Notice of Forfeitures. While these petitions were pending, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit vacated the F.C.C.'s forfeiture guidelines for fines in all services. As a result the F.C.C.'s Compliance and Information Bureau was forced to reduce them.

On July 10th, the F.C.C. again issued Orders in all four cases. The agency reduced the fine for N5JNX, from \$2,000 to \$1,000. It also rejected his claim that tape recordings used by the F.C.C. in its case against him were inaccurate or misleading.

KA5OWW, had his forfeiture amount reduced to \$700. This, based on his claim of being financially unable to pay the \$2,000 dollar forfeiture originally assessed.

The forfeiture amount for N5ROC, was also reduced to \$1,000 while that of WB5LOC was lowered to \$500, because of the shorter duration of his transmissions.

The F.C.C. also paid tribute to the hams of New Orleans who developed the evidence leading to the enforcement action against the four hams. The evidence in these cases was compiled by the Amateur Auxiliary. The commission said that the use of amateur volunteers for the purposes of monitoring violations in the amateur service is permitted by the Communications Act. It said that the New Orleans Amateur Radio community has distinguished itself for its self policing operations.

At airtime it is not known if the four hams will pay the fines or go the expensive route of appealing further to the federal courts.

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MITNICK GOING HOME

Federal prosecutors in California, not North Carolina, will handle the prosecution of computer hacker Kevin David Mitnick, N6NHG. Mitnick has entered a consent agreement with the government to move the case to his home state. There he faces more charges, including probation violation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Bowler says that the consent order signed by Mitnick on June 29th declares that Mitnick wishes to plead guilty to the offense charged. That he also consents to the disposition of the case in the Central District of California in which he is also accused.

Mitnick, who is originally from Van Nuys, California was arrested on February 15th and charged with twenty three counts of computer fraud. Under the plea agreement, N6NHG agreed to plead guilty to one count of illegally using fifteen stolen phone numbers to dial into computer databases. He faces eight months in jail on that conviction.

Mitnick already has served a year in prison in California for illegally tapping computers at Digital Equipment Corp. He also broke into a defense computer network as a teenager. In 1992, he disappeared while on probation and became a fugitive. A computer security expert from San Diego helped track Mitnick to Raleigh, where he had rented an apartment under a false name. Mitnick was arrested after cellular telephone technicians tracked his cellular phone signal to the apartment complex.

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INDECENCY

Broadcasters and civil libertarians say they'll challenge a recent appeals court decision that broadens the government's power to limit children's exposure to adult programming on radio and television. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has given broadcasters new instructions to follow when airing indecent programs limiting them to after 10 p.m.

Under F.C.C. current rules, TV and radio stations may air indecent shows only between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. The court ruling narrows the so called safe harbor for these programs to between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Cable television is not affected.

The court's decision does not affect the F.C.C.'s longstanding indecency definition, but rather the hours when broadcasters may air such shows.

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SKYWARN EWAS

Many hams are familiar with Skywarn, and the next time you visit Alabama you can count on knowing about severe weather as it's happening. This, just by listening to one particular amateur repeater. In Birmingham, a story about a handy new feature amateurs there thought of, designed and built themselves:

Tune in Birmingham's 443.75 Mhz repeater during threatening weather and you may hear this:

"Attention all amateurs. Please stand by for an important weather announcement direct from the National Weather Service forecast office in Alabaster.

The National Weather Service is issuing a severe thunderstorm warning for western Shelby and southern Jefferson Counties. Please say tuned important weather information will be filed very shortly."

It's called EWAS. Emergency Weather Alert Systems. It's believed to be a first for amateur radio in Alabama.

EWAS is the creation of Ron Arant, N4PHP. Arant is active in Skywarn Communications Services. He is a control operator for the W4OW repeater, which is used frequently during Skywarn nets.

"Originally amateurs were forbidden from broadcasting or rebroadcasting National Weather Service information. When they changed the rules, immediately it became evident that would be an added benefit to hams involved in Skywarn and that kind of activity." Ron Arant, N4PHP.

EWAS consists of an alarm equipped weather radio and circuitry to send its signal through the repeater. When the National Weather Service sends its emergency alarm tone during severe weather watches and warnings, EWAS uses digital technology to alert hams that emergency information is about to air. Weather radio then retransmits, over the repeater for a preset time. The alert system also includes customized announcements stored in computer chips.

EWAS is strengthening central Alabamas Skywarn effort. That's because it gives spotter stations official information as quickly as it is released.

"It just helps the amateur community by making the information available quicker. Especially if this is hams in the field doing storm spotting. That's where it really comes in handy. They don't have to have 6 radios around listening to it. They are already listening to a repeater, passing traffic back and forth. The same

repeater provides them with actual weather service information."
N4PHP

Previously hams had to listen to weather radio directly, or they had to wait for the information to be relayed by someone else listening to a weather radio. Now emergency weather information comes directly to them. Immediately and automatically via the repeater they are already monitoring. It's all thanks to EWAS.

"This important weather information was provided in the public W4OW repeater remote base system." recording

Retransmitting National Weather Service weather radio over amateur frequencies used to be illegal. But that changed on September 14th, 1993, that's when the F.C.C. amended its rules about prohibited communications on amateur frequencies.

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ARRL vs. APPLE AT 5 GHZ

The A.R.R.L. is saying no to Apple computer in its bid for new spectrum to create a license free public data communications service. The League has filed comments in opposition to the Apple sponsored petition for rule making that would allocate 300 MHz of spectrum in the 5 GHz band. An proposal that the A.R.R.L. says will affect the Amateur Radio Service.

The Apple petition is designated RM-8653. It asks for spectrum for a new, unlicensed radio service that the League called "essentially unregulated, save for certain technical rules." That the new service proposes the use of directional antennas and relatively high power, and a protected allocation status in shared bands by non-technical persons.

Part of the spectrum being sought by Apple includes 150 MHz, at 5150 to 5300 MHz, and 5725 to 5875 MHz. Amateurs currently have access to the entire range 5650 to 5925 MHz on a shared basis. And in defense of the Amateur Radio allocation in the 5 GHz band the A.R.R.L. cites activity in a number of metropolitan areas around the U.S.

The League says the petition doesn't show why 300 MHz is necessary for such a service. It asks why existing allocations are not sufficient; why existing wireless and wireline services aren't sufficient; and why a proceeding such as this should not wait until current proposals on such services are resolved.

The ARRL also says the petition fails to consider compatibility between the proposed new radio service and other services including Amateur Radio.

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AMIGA COMING BACK

From the U.K., word that Amiga should be back again soon. GOAMJ reports via packet radio that the German company Escom has succeeded in the buy out. Chris says that Escom will be re-introducing the A1200 and A4000 with a few tweaks. They may also re-introduce the A600 at very low cost.

Escom is said to be the 2nd largest personal computer manufacturer in Europe.

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BENCHER DEVOURS BUTTERNUT

Bencher Inc has announced that it has acquired the business assets of Butternut Electronics Inc of Olmito, Texas. In its June 1st press release, Bencher said it would continue to make Butternut products at the Olmito facility and would market them through the existing Bencher network of Amateur Radio dealers.

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RS-1

Still with science and technology, heres one for you ham radio history buffs. Were you aware that the first Russian satellites were launched on October 26, 1978?

RS-1 and RS-2 were those birds and both contained Mode A linear transponders. Now over 15 years old, RS-1 is still giving signals. Its battery open circuited soon after launch, but the spacecraft's 29.401 MHz beacon can still be heard sending "55" when the solar cells are in full sunlight.

Sadly, the power is insufficient to provide that needed to operate the Mode-A transponder. RS-1 is still up there, but is only a ghost of what it was supposed to be.

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ARRL & NSTA

What does the A.R.R.L. have in common with 20,000 science teachers? They met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the 43rd annual National Science Teachers Association national convention in late March. As in past years, the A.R.R.L. exhibited Amateur Radio and SAREX at the invitation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The exposition of science teaching materials at N.S.T.A. is the largest school exhibit in North America.

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HEARD ISLAND TO BE ACTIVATED THIS YEAR

In DX, for several months a group from the 3Y0PI team has worked discretely on a new DXpedition. K0IR, the organizer and leader of the 1994 3Y0PI Peter I Island DXpedition, will lead a team to Heard Island in November with Sir Edmund Hillary will be the Honorary Expedition Leader.

The Australian Antarctic Division has issued permit number 95/1 allowing a full-scale amateur radio operation. All environmental assessments and letters of indemnification have been filed and approved. A separate proposal for scientific work during the stay is expected to be approved.

A 140 foot vessel has been chartered for the trip. The team will sail from Fremantle, Western Australia, on Nov. 1, 1995, and expects to land on Heard Island Nov. 12. They will remain until Dec. 1, returning to Fremantle around Dec. 12. The team will be active on all bands and modes, including digital and satellite. The team will elaborate on the strong points of the 3Y0PI expedition, and hopes to take advantage of technical innovations resulting from the 1995 Easter Island and Salasy Gomez expedition in September. Radio equipment is being provided by Yaesu, ETO, and Cushcraft.

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3456 MHz RECORD

Also, extraordinary conditions for tropospheric propagation in the U.S. Midwest have resulted in a new overland record on the amateur 3456 Mhz UHF band. At 12:24 UTC on July 12, Al Ward, WB5LUA, in Allen, Texas, worked Gary Morhlant, WA0BWE, in Maplewood, Minnesota over a distance of 841 miles. The previous record of 736 miles was set on May 1, 1992, between WB5LUA and W9ZIH, in Malta, Illinois. This time around WA0BWE was running about 5 watts and WB5LUA operated 100 watts to a 5 foot dish at 65 feet.

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FUND ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

And now the item you have all been waiting for. The monthly Support Fund Administrators Report. Well, wait no longer.

We begin this months report by sending a BIG HI Linda Reader of Salt Lake City. It is always great to hear from our regulars. We heard from Si Field, KB9IKO from Park Forest, IL. And from the Years Wide Band Repeater Network based in Evansville, IN. From the Golden State we heard from Barbara Kincade of Hawthorn and the Golden Triangle Radio Club of Wildamar. And that is it! We need to hear from more of you to keep these newscasts coming. Remember

the clubs who support us with the club name, repeater call and service area get a mention during the newscast id break.

Listen for Andy's next report in about four weeks.

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline.
You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, California
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